

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 11 is a cross sectional view of the plate system 50 shown in Fig. 7 having as sealing devices a sealing top plate 94 and a sealing bottom plate 92 adhered to the respective top surface 60 and bottom surface 62 of the plate system 58.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

The plate 58, after sample purification, can be sealed and archived, and/or transferred by either manual or robotic means to a platform or a workstation. Additional components such as PCR solution, transcription solution, RT solution, or RTPCR solution can be added to the through-holes 52 before sealing. The plate 58 can be sealed with an adhesive or heat-sealable membrane material, for example, to create a permanent bond to either the top surface 60, bottom surface 62, or both surfaces 60, 62 of the plate 58. As such, leak-proof seals can be provided and the device can be converted to a PCR plate, a transcription plate, an RT plate, an RTPCR plate, or a similar device.